APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/765,927	01/19/2001	Steve Hole	22048824-2	7420

				EXAMINER
26453	7590	06/25/2004		BROWN, JAMES LEE

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2144	8

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No:	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/765,927	HOLE, STEVE
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	James Brown	2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05/07/2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *05/07/2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
   application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date *#4*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This application has been examined.

2.   Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), Paper #4, received 01/19/2001, has

been entered into record.

3.   Claims 1-24 are pending.

Priority

4.   No claim for priority has been made in this application.

5.   The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in

this application is 01/19/2001.

Drawings

6.   The Examiner contends that the drawings submitted on 05/07/2001 are

acceptable for examination proceedings.

Specification

7.   The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or

other form of browser-executable code. Applicant is required to delete the embedded

hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

See page 2 for example.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9.   Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by

Mathon et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0042131), hereinafter referred

to as Mathon. Mathon disclosed a system and method that anticipates the broad claims

of the present invention. Below is a mapping of the limitations of the present invention

as disclosed by Mathon.

(Claims 1, 16) *a message tracking monitor operable to monitor one or more ports for*

tracking information; a message tracking interface coupled to the message tracking

monitor and enabled to communicate with one or more decision support subsystems,

the message tracking interface operable to receive tracking information from the

message tracking monitor and transfer the tracking information to one or more decision

support subsystems, wherein the tracking information is collected and managed.

Mathon disclosed a system and method for tracking, monitoring, and archiving

messages (Sec. 0010). Mathon further disclosed a management network to monitor

communications on the message network (Sec. 0026). The management network

(monitor) is coupled to connectors and route point processors (RPP) that interface to

the message network (message tracking interface/MTI)(Sec. 0047). Connector

components use sockets/ports to receive and transmit tracking data (Sec. 0041).

Connectors also provide an interface to the message network via its routing processor

(RP) module (Sec. 29-30). Connectors (MTI) communicate with a data management

archival system through RPP(s) that directly couple to the message archival database

(Sec. 0042). RPP(s) write tracking information into the archival database of the

decision support subsystem (Sec. 0061).

(Claims 1, 2) *one or more ports include any one or combination of electronic mail*

address, message tracking server, access status log, and proprietary message

tracking API

RPP(s) may be network servers coupled to the management network (monitor) and

transmit message tracking information to connectors (message tracking server) (Sec.

0041).

(Claims 1, 3, 6, 7) *decision support subsystem includes a decision support database;*

message tracking interface is operable to access the tracking information stored in a

decision support database; message tracking interface is operable to update the

tracking information stored in a decision support database (DSDB).

An archival system and method provide a distributed archive that stores messages and

retains statistical information regarding message routing and delivery. Said system also

provides the ability to data mine (decision support subsystem with database)(Sec.

0041, 0047, 0061). And as previous stated in the above rejection, RPP(s) (MTI)

interface with the message network and have direct access to update the message

database (DSDB) (Sec. 0065).

(Claims 1, 4) *decision support subsystem includes a decision support application.*

A web browser (decision support application) is used to interact with a message

archive (DSDB) to obtain performance reports and monitoring statistics (Sec. 0027,

0048, 0074) via a portal.

(Claims 1, 5) *tracking information includes one or more tracking notifications.*

RPP sends acknowledgements (tracking notifications) to source connectors.

Destination connectors track message sequences and communicate retransmission

request (tracking notifications) of missing messages (Sec. 0051, 0053-0054).

(Claims 1, 8) *message tracking interface is operable to manage the message tracking monitor*

Connectors and RPP (MTI) components can pull information from a network controller on the management network (monitor) to identify system bottlenecks and topology changes (Sec. 0044).

(Claim 9) dynamically pluggable decision support interfaces

Mathon disclosed embedded connectors that can be integrated with commercially B2B/EDI applications as a dynamic modular plug-in (Sec. 0033).

(Claims 10, 11) *monitoring tracking information on one or more ports (See claim 1 rejection); collecting tracking information from the one or more ports (See claim 1 rejection); and transmitting the tracking information for handling the tracking information according to a predetermined schema*

Messages are packaged in a pre-determined structure/schema, extensible markup language (XML), for transmission. The XML envelope carries instructions for routing, security, and payload processing (Sec. 0038).

(Claims 10, 12) parsing the tracking information into a record format

As disclosed in the rejections of claims 123, message tracking information is stored in an archival database as part of a decision support system. And it is well known in the art that a database is a collection of structured data comprising records and fields. Thus, any notifications (tracking information) must be parsed into records prior to database insertion.

(Claims 10, 13) *predetermined schema includes storing in a decision support database (DSDB).*

As previously recited, the disclosed system and method provide a distributed archive (DSDB) that stores messages and statistical information extracted from message envelopes (XML structured/schema) about the routing and delivery of messages (Sec 0013, 0038).

(Claims 10, 14) *predetermined schema includes real time exception handling*

Mathon disclosed that RPP(s) and connectors use message envelope routing information to assist in message recovery (Sec. 0052, 0054). And connectors are able to detect and communicate network transmission problems to the network controller

(monitor and message network component) that may transmit new routing information

(Sec. 0057). Thus, real-time exception handling is provided.

(Claims 10, 15) *transmitting includes transmitting the tracking information to a decision*

support subsystem (DSS)

Mathon disclosed that RPP transmits a copy of a message and tracking information

into an archival database (DSS component) (Sec. 0059).

Claims 10, 17) *providing analytical reports based on the collected tracking information*

(Sec. 0027).

System users can query archival database for data mining, configuration, and

performance information (Sec. 0027).

(Claims 10, 18) *monitoring includes requesting for one or more tracking notifications*

from one or more tracking sources

A management network (monitor) administrator can request tracking notifications from

message network components (archival database, RPP, connectors) (Sec. 0017).

(Claims 10, 19, 20) *monitoring includes accepting one or more tracking notifications from one or more tracking sources; monitoring includes continuously monitoring tracking information ports*

Network controller (NC) on the management network (monitor) receives notifications from connectors (tracking source) and a network operations center (NOC) that is dedicated to monitoring the message network status (Sec. 0057-0058). And thus, continuous monitoring is provided.

(Claim 21) *monitoring tracking information on one or more ports; collecting tracking information from the one or more ports; and transmitting the tracking information for handling the tracking information according to a predetermined schema.*

The limitations of claim 21 are rejected for the same reasons as previously recited in claims 1, 10, 11, 16,and 18.

(Claim 22) *message tracking monitor coupled to one or more message tracking data sources, the message tracking monitor operable to receive tracking information from the one or more message tracking data sources and parse the tracking information into one or more tracking data records; a message tracking interface coupled to the message tracking monitor and one or more decision support subsystems (DSS), the*

message tracking interface operable to receive tracking data records and transmit the

tracking data records to the one or more decision support subsystems

The limitations of claim 22 are rejected for the same reasons recited in the rejection of

claims 1, 10, and 12.

(Claims 22, 23) one or more dynamically pluggable decision support interface modules

coupled to the message tracking interface and the one or more decision support

subsystems, wherein the one or more dynamically pluggable decision support interface

modules in response to receiving the one or more tracking data records from the

message tracking interface, transmit the one or more tracking data records to the one or

more decision support subsystems

Embedded connectors (decision support plug-in) may contain route processors (RP)

(Sec. 0030, 0033) that interface to RPP(s) (MTI component) that redirect (response)

data (tracking information) received from connectors to storage in a message archive

database (DSS)(Sec. 0042).

(Claim 24) *tracking information includes message transactions on the Internet* (Sec.

0030).

A message network that may be connected to from a browser via an Internet

connection (Sec. 0030).

Conclusion

10.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Meyer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,058 B1), Lin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,163,802);

Selvarajan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,279,033 B1), Ishmael et al. (U.S. Patent

Application Publication 2002/0143947 A1), Butt et al. (U.S. Patent Application

Publication 2002/0120672 A1), and Gordon B. Jones (Managing the Message:

Message Tracking, IEEE 1998).

11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

Examiner should be directed to James Brown whose telephone number is (703) 605-

4247. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm. If

attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's

supervisor, William Cuchlinsky, can be reached at (703) 308-3873. The fax phone

number for this Group is (703) 872-9306. Inquiries of a general nature relating to the

general status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the 2100 Group

receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

James Brown

Patent Examiner

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